

meral 14 so that the user may observe whether the liquid in the container is full or whether liquid needs to be added. The electrical network included in the base 12 terminates in a power supply cord 15 that may be readily connected to a power line via conventional plug 16. The electrical circuit may include an ON/OFF switch 17 as well as an electrical resistance control 18 so that the user may set the heater to boil or warm condition. A toggle switch 17 is employed as an ON/OFF switch. The heater connected to the electrical circuit or network is within the housing 11 and will be described later.

The housing 11 further includes a flavor extracting compartment broadly indicated by numeral 21 (which will be described later) and which is closed by means of a second lid or cover 22. Both the main compartment in housing 11 and the steeping compartment 21 are connected in common to a dispensing nozzle 23 so that the contents of both compartments within the housing can be joined together under the control of a conventional ON/OFF valve 24 and an extract or flavor control selector valve 25. The selector valve 25 includes a slider member 26 which includes a projection 27 that may be grasped by the fingers of the user and moved with respect to the main body of the valve 25. The selector member 26 is employed for controlling the volume of flavored water dispensed from the steeping tank 21 prior to mixing or combining with clear water from the main housing tank prior to dispensing via the nozzle 23.

Referring now in detail to FIG. 2, it can be seen that the housing 11 includes a main chamber or compartment, identified by numeral 30, into which a quantity of liquid such as water is stored preparatory for heating. The lid 13 is removable so that the water may be easily introduced into the chamber 30 and the water will come into contact with a resistance heater 19 operably connected to the electrical circuit within the base 12. A second chamber or compartment is broadly identified by numeral 31 and is within the housing compartment 21 having cover 22 enclosing an opening into the compartment 31. A strainer is indicated by numeral 32 which includes a perforated sidewall so that liquid will pass from the compartment 31 into the interior of the strainer and back out again. A quantity of tea leaves may be placed into the strainer 32 when the lid 22 is removed. The quantity of tea leaves is loose and the chamber 31 may be represented as a steeping or brewing chamber into which flavor is extracted from the tea leaves when hot or boiled water is introduced into the chamber 31. It can be seen that a pipe or conduit 33 interconnects the main housing chamber 30 with the brewing chamber 31 and that a manually operated one-way valve 20 serves as an ON/OFF valve for permitting the boiled or hot water in chamber 30 to pass into the brewing chamber 31.

It can also be seen in FIG. 2 that a first conduit 34 communicates the housing chamber 30 with the nozzle 23 and that a second conduit 35 communicates the brewing chamber 31 with the nozzle 23 via the first conduit 34. Therefore, the concentrated tea water in the brewing chamber 31 may be introduced and mixed with the clear water in chamber 30 as the combined water is being dispensed from the nozzle 23 under control of the valve 24.

Referring now to FIGS. 2 and 3, the selector valve 25 including the slider member 26 controls the amount of brewed tea water supplied from brewing chamber 31 to the dispensing nozzle 23. The slide member 26 moves

along a tapered ramp 36 and is selectively placed in registry and alignment with a reduced orifice 37. When member 26 is close to the orifice 37, a light flavored or light strength tea water is permitted to pass through the second conduit and to be mixed with clear water from chamber 30 in the first conduit 34. When the slider member 26 is moved so as to be in the middle of ramp 36, a medium strength fluid is introduced for mixing with the clear water and, as illustrated in FIG. 3, when the member 36 is in registry with the enlarged orifice 38, a heavy or strong flavored fluid is permitted to pass for mixing with the clear water. The slider member rides within the interior of the conduit 35 in a rectilinear manner, as indicated by the double arrow 40. A conventional shut-off valve is indicated by numeral 42 for closing conduit 34 when tank 31 is cleaned.

In view of the foregoing, it can be seen that the tea maker of the present invention permits the brewed tea in chamber 31 to be mixed with the clear and hot water in the chamber 30 via the first and second conduits so that the fluids are mixed and dispensed in common through the nozzle 23. If desired, the selector member 26 may be slid to a position to close orifice 37 so that only clear water is permitted to be discharged from dispensing nozzle 23 via conduit 34. This may be practiced for cleaning purposes. The strainer 32 may be readily removed from the brewing chamber or tank 31 and old leaves may be disposed in accordance with conventional practice. New leaves may then be introduced into the strainer and replaced into the chamber 31 for another brewing operation. Water may be added to the main housing chamber 30 by removing the lid 13. The heater 19 is employed for warming or boiling the water and a vent 41 may be employed for the release of steam which may whistle in order to alert the user that boiling is achieved.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from this invention in its broader aspects and, therefore, the aim in the appended claims is to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A beverage making apparatus comprising:
  - a container for holding a quantity of water;
  - means carried on said container for heating said quantity of water;
  - a tank within said container for holding a quantity of tea leaves;
  - pipng operably interconnecting said tank and said container;
  - valve means selectively connecting said quantity of water with said tank via said piping to soak and steep said tea leaves to extract flavor ingredient from said tea leaves into surrounding water;
  - a dispensing nozzle connected with said container and said tank whereby water from said container and tea from said tank combine for common discharge via said nozzle;
  - selector valve means operably disposed on said dispensing nozzle for selectively discharging tea from said tank and water from said container;
  - said valve means is a flip type ON/OFF manually operated valve;
  - said selector valve means comprises a movable member disposed through a first conduit between said